

substrate (i.e., backer board 18) but not through the insert 19, which facilitates the separation of the male and female Velcro or Scotchmate material, so that the insert 19 can be lifted out and changed for a different one. The term means * * * for disengaging, as recited in Claim 1, is intended to be readable on the fingerholes 28 and equivalents thereof.

Gilbert is directed to a combination table or "convertible table" in which there are three different panels F, G, and H which can slide in or out along grooves in the side walls B and D, and which panels can each serve as the top surface, so the table can be used as a writing surface or for chess or backgammon. The panels do not lift out, but rather slide out horizontally. There does not appear to be any "substrate" corresponding to the backer board of this invention, and the panels are not adhered or attached to any panel beneath them. The system of sliding in and out of grooves is not the equivalent of the fastener material recited in the present claims, of which Velcro is one example.

Moore is directed to a table top with an upper glass cover 20 that seats within a frame 12, with an underlay 18 beneath the glass cover 20. As stated at column 4, lines 10 to 36, there is apparently an arrangement of apertures through all the various elements 14, 18, 20, to form a bore 44. A bolt extends through this bore to hold the assembly together, with a nut beneath the base 14 and a head of the bolt above the glass cover 20 for holding down a napkin holder, an advertisement holder or the like (col 4, lines 20, 21). The user reaches (from above) through the hole in the glass cover to lift it (after the bolt has been removed) as stated at lines 26 to 28, which is not the same as pushing from beneath as in this invention. Moreover, Moore also requires a hole in the top layer (glass cover) which is not present in the insert in this invention.

The Yokeley reference adds nothing to the Gilbert and Moore references, and is only relevant for showing a cover that fits over an existing table top.

Claim 10 is added for the feature of having the image formed on the top surface of the insert, rather than on a layer beneath it, as is the case in Moore. Claims 11 and 12 recite the structure represented by the finger holes 28, which structure is absent in the references.

The additional patents to Ertell, Ogden, Davis, Porath et al., Jones, Kriegsman, Jung-

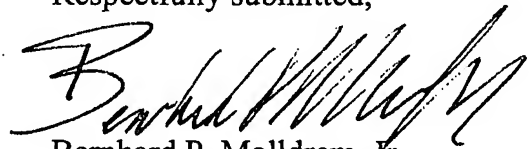
Chung, and Grender, which were not applied to the claims, have also been considered, but Applicant sees nothing in these additional references that would affect the subject matter of the claims now being asserted.

As for the dependent claims, the references do not show Velcro or the like, arranged in any manner, and these do not suggest the structure as specifically recited in Claims 2, 3, or 4.

Applicant is attaching a version of the claims with markings to show the amendments.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully urges that all of Claims 1 to 12 are patentable, and early and favorable consideration is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl:

Version of Amendment with Markings

Version of Amendment with Markings

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph from page 5, line 8 to page 6, line 3 to read as follows:

-- There are first and second releasable attaching means disposed on the bottom of the insert 19 and on the upper surface of the backer board 18, and these may be complementary strips or patches of an interlocking hook and loop type filamentary fastening material, such as that sold under the trademarks Velcro® and Scotchmate®. The releasable fastening means may be in the form of strips 22 and 23 attached, respectively to the top surface of backing board 18 and the bottom of surface 21 of table top 19. The strips 22 and 23 are desirably attached adjacent all peripheral edges of the backing board and table top insert, desirably supplemented by centrally located filamentary fastening means, such as the X-patterns 24 and 25 on the respective backing board and the table top insert. In this embodiment, the releasable fastening means must be arranged on the respective surfaces in complementary mirror image patterns so that they engage when the parts are pressed together. The patterns may have two-way or four-way symmetry so that the user does not have to be concerned with the orientation of the insert relative to the frame and backer-board portion. At least one finger hole, and preferably a plurality of finger holes 27 28 are provided through backer board 18, preferably along the edges and/or at the corners of the backer board 18 (see Fig. 2), to facilitate separation of the releasable fasteners when it is desired to replace or exchange an imaged table top insert 19. Favorably, the table tops can each be provided with a set of several interchangeable inserts 19. The variety of possible inserts is inexhaustible. --

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 by rewriting the same as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) An interchangeable table top arrangement comprising:
- 2 a horizontal flat substrate;
- 3 a frame positioned on the periphery of said substrate and extending a predetermined

4 distance above an upper surface of said substrate, the frame defining a recess of
5 predetermined dimensions;

6 a flat interchangeable insert member having dimensions equal to the dimensions of
7 said recess so as to fit therein and to be liftable out therefrom;

8 first removable attaching means disposed on an underside of said insert member and
9 second removable attaching means disposed on an upper surface of said substrate, said first
10 and second removable attaching means engaging one another for removably securing the
11 insert member within said recess onto said substrate; and

12 means extending through said substrate, but not extending through said insert, for
13 disengaging said first and second removable attaching means from one another to permit
14 change out of said insert member by lifting it.

Please add new Claims 10 and 11:

1 -- 10. An interchangeable table top arrangement according to Claim 1 wherein said insert is
2 provided with an image formed on a top surface thereof.

1 11. An interchangeable table top arrangement according to Claim 5 wherein said at least
2 one finger hole is located along an edge of said substrate.

1 12. An interchangeable table top arrangement according to Claim 5 wherein said at least
2 one finger hole is located at a corner of said substrate. --